

1/29/05 Amy

AGENTS FOR PREVENTING AND TREATING THROMBOCYTOPENIA

[0001] This is a division of co-pending parent application Serial No. 09/117,379, ^{now U.S. Patent No. 6,342,477,} the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 of international application PCT/JP97/00255, which designated the United States, was nationalized July 29, 1998, and was not published in English.

Field of Invention

[0002] This invention relates to agents for preventing and treating thrombocytopenia that contain a parathyroid hormone (PTH) or a derivative thereof as an active ingredient.

Background of Invention

[0003] Platelets, as well as erythrocytes and neutrophils which are also in the class of mature corpuscles, originate from hematopoietic stem cells and are produced by the differentiation and proliferation of these cells. In the early stage of the hematopoietic process, hematopoietic stem cells differentiate and proliferate to megakaryocytes via their precursor cells. Mature megakaryocytes form proplatelets which would eventually be released into peripheral blood as platelets. It has been found that various hematopoietic factors and cytokines are involved in the series of steps in the above-described platelet production process. For example, it has been shown experimentally that